

JAN. 1377 THE PACKED PARLIAMENT  
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Duke had obtained knights of the counties of his own choosing. For all who in the last Parliament had played the man for the common weal, he procured, so far as he could, to be removed, so that there were not of them in this Parliament more than twelve, whom the Duke was not able to remove because the counties for which they were elected refused to choose others.<sup>1</sup>

On January 27 this packed Parliament met. The tone of the majority was soon tested by the question of choosing a Speaker. Sir Thomas Hungerford, the new member for Wiltshire, the Duke's seneschal, was elected. This proceeding seems to have aroused in the minds of the few veterans of the last assembly the thought of their old chief, Peter de la Mare, now lying in Nottingham Castle. They challenged his illegal imprisonment, and demanded his trial; but their voices were overborne by the majority, and they were forced to be silent. Alarmed, possibly, by this attempted revolt, the Duke determined to crush all further murmurs on the part of the minority by associating with the sessions of the Commons a committee of Lords from his own party. He thus turned against the independence of the Lower House the very means which it had used so successfully for its own protection the year before. Percy, Warwick and Stafford had shared the counsels of the Commons in the Good Parliament as associated Lords; they now were not ashamed to appear in the Chapter House, in the same capacity, but in the opposite interest.<sup>2</sup>

On February 8, about a week after the opening of Parliament at Westminster, Convocation had met at St. Paul's in London. The Bishops had seats in this assembly in their spiritual capacity, as well as in the House of Lords, where they sat in virtue of the baronies attached to their bishoprics. Yet here, where they stood on their own ground and among their own people, they showed less political energy than in the House of Lords. Convocation always voted the money demanded of it with little remonstrance or delay;

<sup>1</sup> *Chron. Ang.*, 112. There were really only eight knights of the last Parliament re-elected. *Bl. B.*, 193-7.  
<sup>2</sup> *Clwcm+ Aug.*, 112-3; *Rot. Parl.*, ii. 363-4.